

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that in the Examiner's opinion the application contained claims directed to several patentably distinct species, and for this reason the Examiner demanded election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

With the present communication, applicants have elected for further prosecution the species of Figure 9.

Claims 1-3 have been retained as they were, while claim 4 has been replaced with independent claim 5 and dependent claim 6.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 6 are readable on the elected species of Figure 9.

At the same time Examiner's election is respectfully traversed. It is believed that all species disclosed in the present application have the

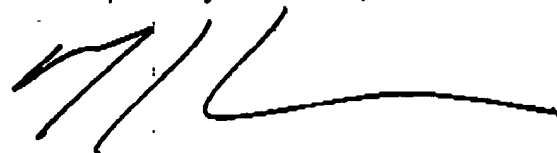
same basic inventive idea, and therefore all claims have to be prosecuted further.

In the event, however, if the Examiner makes the election requirement final, it is respectfully submitted that if a generic claim is finally held allowable, the claims related to other species have to be retained in the application as well.

Consideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal line.

-6-

Michael J. Striker  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 27233